Insight'15
Information that impacts you

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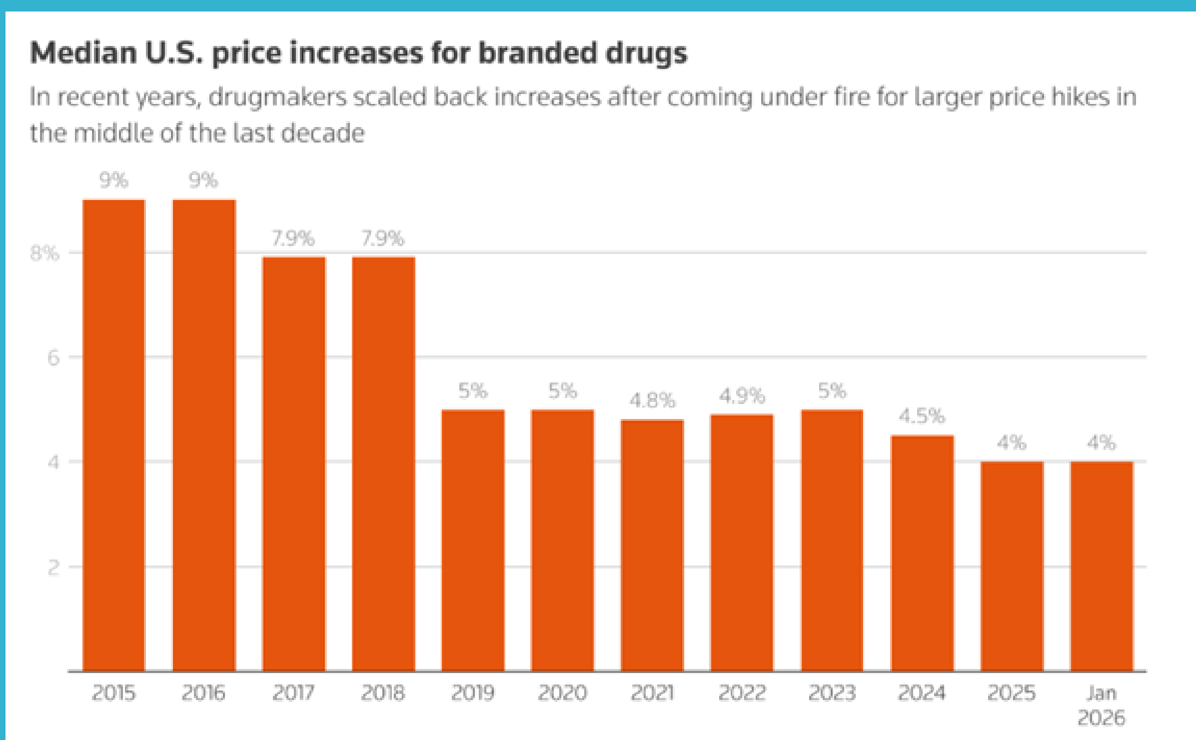
Drugmakers to Raise U.S. Prices on ~350 Medicines in 2026 Despite Government Pressure

Pharmaceutical companies plan to raise list prices on about 350 branded medications in the U.S. next year, including vaccines for COVID-19, RSV and shingles, as well as cancer treatments, even amid public pressure from the Trump administration to curb drug costs. The median price increase is roughly 4%, similar to last year, though some firms will also cut prices on a small number of products. Industry critics say these hikes underscore continued challenges in addressing high prescription drug costs for patients.

Source: Reuters



Changes Loom for U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act as Key Authorities Near Expiration

In 2026, significant updates are expected for the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the main U.S. chemical safety law, as the EPA's authority to collect fees expires and industry and lawmakers push for broader reform. While some stakeholders

Shipping Companies Plan Gradual Return to Suez Canal Amid Improving Red Sea Conditions

Major shipping lines are preparing strategies for a cautious return to the Suez Canal after nearly two years of rerouting around Africa due to security threats in the Red Sea linked to Houthi attacks. While no firm timeline has been set, carriers like want streamlined chemical reviews and regulatory improvements, environmental advocates worry that changes could weaken protections against hazardous chemicals. The renewal process may influence how the EPA prioritizes risk evaluations, implements fee structures, and balances public health with chemical innovation.

Source: CEN.ACS

Hapag-Lloyd and Maersk say any resumption of transit will be gradual and contingent on improved safety. Recent limited transits and peace developments are seen as early signs of potential normalisation, though industry leaders remain measured in their approach.

Source: Reuters

Shell Narrows LNG Production Outlook as Chemicals Unit Faces Continued Weakness

Energy giant Shell narrowed its outlook for fourth-quarter liquefied natural gas (LNG) production, guiding to 7.5 million–7.9 million tons compared with its previous 7.4 million–8 million tons forecast, while keeping output within overall prior guidance. The company also warned of continued weakness in its chemicals and products division, which is expected to hit profitability, though its upstream oil and gas production is forecast to stay steady. Shell’s update reflects cautious sentiment in energy markets as LNG and gas trading faces mixed conditions.

Source: Reuters

Trade Group Forecasts Weak U.S. Chemical Growth in 2026

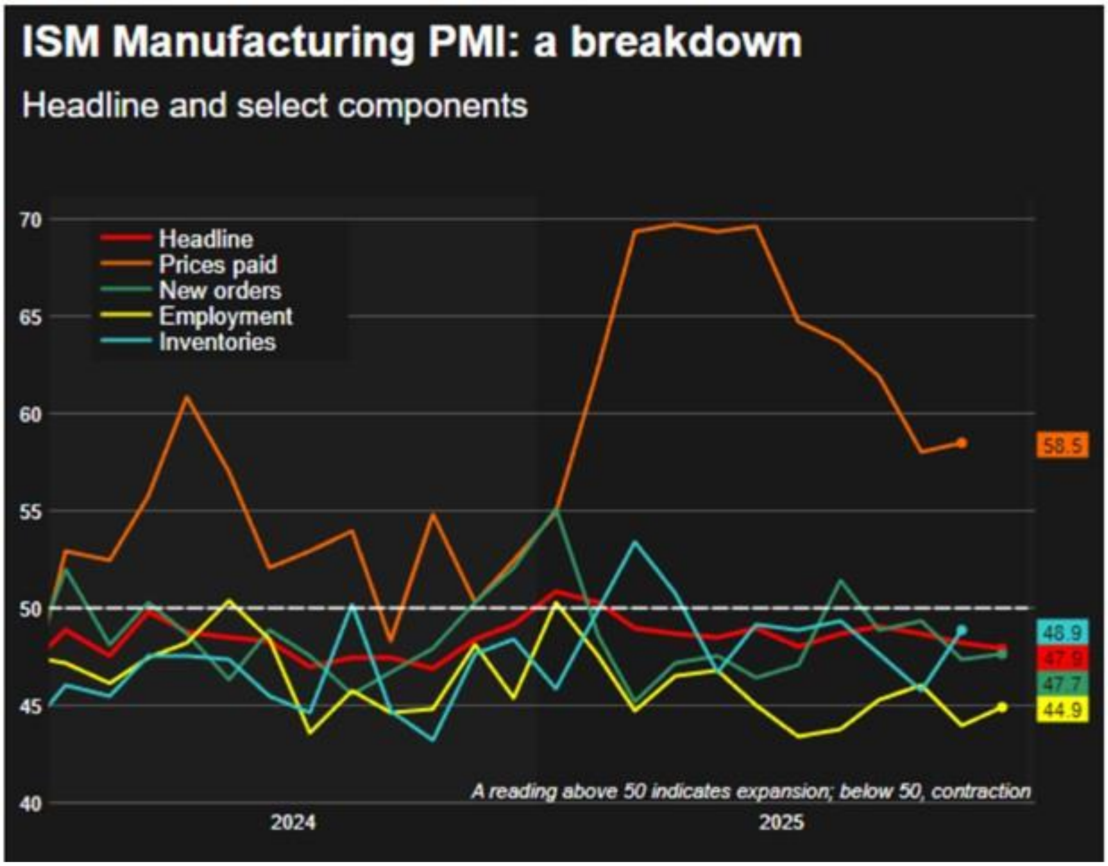
The American Chemistry Council (ACC) expects U.S. chemical industry output to grow only 0.3% in 2026, following a modest 0.7% increase in 2025, reflecting continued economic uncertainty and sluggish end-market demand. While growth is forecast to remain low early in the year, the ACC anticipates the industry may accelerate later in 2026 and rebound more strongly in 2027. Global chemical production is also projected to slow next year, underscoring challenges for the sector.

Source: CEN.ACS

U.S. Factory Sector Hits 14-Month Low as Manufacturing Activity Contracts

U.S. factory activity weakened further at the end of 2025, with the Institute for Supply Management’s manufacturing PMI falling to 47.9 in December — the lowest reading in 14 months and marking the 10th straight month of contraction. New orders stayed in decline and input costs remained elevated, highlighting ongoing demand weakness and cost pressures. Economists link the slump to persistent tariff impacts and soft customer demand, though some expect a potential rebound in 2026.

Source: Reuters



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